

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18, 22, and 23 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5, 9-11, 13-16, and 18 have been amended, claims 4, 12, and 19-21 have been canceled, and new claims 22 and 23 have been added to recite additional features of the embodiments disclosed in the specification. Also, the specification has been amended to correct typographical errors.

I. The §102(e) Rejection Based on Smith

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected for being anticipated by the Smith patent. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection for the following reasons.

The Smith patent discloses a data unit 12 coupled to the input of an ATM switch 8. The data unit includes a section 150b that adds a routing tag to a received cell. The cell is then routed through the ATM switch based on the tag and then transmitted to a destination terminal. However, the Smith patent does not disclose the features added by amendment to claim 1.

For example, claim 1 recites that “routing information is added after the ATM cell passes through the ATM switch.” Smith does not disclose these features, i.e., in Smith the routing tag is added by data unit 12 before the cell is transferred to switch 8. Also, claim 1 recites “removing the routing information added to the ATM cell after processing by the cell processing circuit” and then “routing the ATM cell to an end destination based on the removed routing information.” The Smith patent does not disclose these features.

Moreover, claim 1 recites that the “ATM cell is routed along a signal path that bypasses the ATM switch after the routing information is removed.” The Smith patent also fails to disclose these features.

Because the Smith patent does not disclose all the features recited in claim 1, Applicants submit that the Smith patent does not anticipate this claim. Furtherance of claim 1 to allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 22 and 23 have been added to further define the method of claim 1.

Claim 22 recites that the processing performed by the cell processing circuit includes “at least one of changing an ATM adaptation layer type or changing payload information.” These features are not disclosed by the Smith patent.

Claim 23 recites that the routing information included in the α Byte identifies “one of the following as a destination of the ATM cell: one of a plurality of physical connections or a loop-back path of a network.” These features are not disclosed by the Smith patent.

II. The §102(e) Rejection Based on Heiman

Claims 2-6, 11, 19, and 21 were rejected for being anticipated by the Heiman patent. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

The Heiman patent discloses routing a cell through an ATM switch 11 based on a routing tag inserted into the cell within the switch. (See column 7, lines 22-52). However, Heiman does not disclose many of the features added by amendment to claim 2, including “adding an

information field to the header portion of the ATM cell” after the cell has passed through an ATM switch. Further, claim 1 recites forwarding the ATM cell to a destination “after the information field is removed, the ATM cell forwarded to said destination along a signal path that bypasses the ATM switch.” The Heiman patent does not disclose these features.

Because the Heiman patent does not disclose all the features in claim 2, Applicants submit that the Heiman patent does not anticipate claim 2 or any of its dependent claims. Withdrawal of the § 102 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 5 recites “adding routing information in a header of the ATM cell that has been switched” and “forwarding the ATM cell according to the added routing information without any further cell switching through the ATM switch, the ATM cell being forwarded along a signal path that bypasses the ATM switch.” The Heiman patent does not disclose these features. Applicants therefore submit that claim 5 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 12. In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that claim 11 and its dependent claims are allowable.

III. The §103(a) Rejections

Claims 7, 8, 17, and 20 were rejected for being obvious based on a Heiman-Smith combination. Applicants traverse this rejection on grounds that neither patent teaches or suggests the features added by amendment to base claims 5 and 11.

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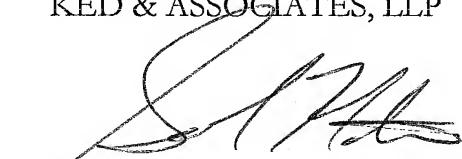
Claims 9 and 10 were rejected for being obvious in view of a Heiman-Jeon combination.

This rejection is traversed on grounds that the Jeon patent fails to disclose the features added by amendment to base claim 5.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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